

YOU DISRESPECT MY ART

STEP 1 Read part 1.

1. The text is:

- a dialogue · a song an excerpt from a novel

2. Identify the main elements of the story. *Identifiez les éléments principaux de l'histoire.*

a. the characters (*les personnages*)...

who are present in the scene	who are mentioned (but NOT present)
- TROY JONES, THE NARRATOR, A STUDENT - MRS. HASS, TROY'S TEACHER - THE HALL MONITOR WHO TAKES TROY AWAY	- MR. SALAS, ANOTHER TEACHER - THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL

b. The scene takes place in A SCHOOL / IN A CLASSROOM.

Justify with two elements from the text:

- “SHE WALKED TO HER DESK AND PHONED THE PRINCIPAL, AND ASKED THAT I BE REMOVED FROM HER CLASS” (lines 17-18)
- “A SEVERELY INAPPROPRIATE CLASSROOM DISRUPTION” (line 18)
- “THE HALL MONITOR [...] STOOD AT THE DOOR OF THE CLASSROOM” (line 19)
- “AS I STEPPED OUT OF THE CLASSROOM” (line 20)

3. Pick out the words that describe the characters' opinions on rap.

Relevez des mots qui décrivent les opinions des personnages sur le rap.

- MRS. HASS : DRUGS, VIOLENCE, NO RESPECT FOR WOMEN, NEVER HEARD AN INTELLIGENT RAP, MUCH LESS AN INTELLIGENT RAPPER, RIDICULOUS ATTEMPTS AT POETRY
- TROY : NOT ALL THUGS, RAPPING ABOUT THEIR REALITY, A GOOD WRITER WRITES ABOUT WHAT HE KNOWS

4. Use them to describe what the characters think of rap. *Utilisez ces mots pour décrire ce que les personnages pensent du rap.*

MRS HASS STRONGLY **DISLIKES** RAP BECAUSE SHE THINKS RAPPERS ALL **PROMOTE** VIOLENCE, DRUG USE AND **DISRESPECT** WOMEN BY **OBJECTIFYING** THEM. SHE FINDS THE LYRICS **UNINTERESTING** AND **VULGAR**. SHE SAYS RAP **STANDS FOR** RIDICULOUS ATTEMPTS AT POETRY.

CONVERSELY, TROY DEFENDS RAP BY SAYING THAT RAPPERS ONLY DESCRIBE THEIR SAD REALITY AND THAT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT GOOD WRITERS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.

5. Choose two adjectives to describe the atmosphere (*Choisir 2 adjectifs décrivant l'atmosphère*). Justify your choice.

- friendly tense · mysterious · cheerful hostile

THE ATMOSPHERE IS **TENSE** AND **HOSTILE**. MANY WORDS IN THE EXCERPT SUGGEST **ANGER** (“I COUNTERED” (LINE 1), “SHE SHOT BACK” (LINE 11), “YOU’RE TOO STUPID TO UNDERSTAND RAP MUSIC” (LINE 12), “SHE SCOWLED” (LINE 14)).

6. Focus on line 12 to the end. *Concentrez-vous sur les lignes 12 jusqu'à la fin.*

a. Explain why the character opens her eyes “wider than the Pacific”. *Pourquoi le personnage ouvre-t-il les yeux si grand ?*

MRS. HASS IS **STUNNED** (= **ABASOURDIE**) BECAUSE TROY HAS JUST TALKED BACK TO HER, CALLING HER “STUPID” (TO TALK BACK = **RÉPONDRE INSOLEMMENT**). THAT’S WHY **SHE OPENS HER EYES WIDE IN SURPRISE**.

b. What does she do to deal with the problem? *Que fait-elle pour gérer la situation ?*

TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION, MRS. HASS PHONES THE PRINCIPAL AND ASKS FOR SOMEONE TO **COME AND GET TROY**. THEN, THE HALL MONITOR ARRIVES AND **TAKES TROY AWAY**.

STEP 2 Now read part 2.

7. I.S.S. stands for **IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION**.

8. Why is the narrator in I.S.S.? *Pourquoi le narrateur est-il en « I.S.S. » (= exclusion en interne / dans l'école) ?*

TROY IS IN I.S.S. BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH MRS. HASS, **FOR TALKING BACK TO HER AND CALLING HER "STUPID"**.

9. Describe the narrator's feelings. *Décrivez les sentiments du narrateur.*

HE STILL SEEMS **OFFENDED, ANGRY AND UPSET** ABOUT WHAT HIS TEACHER SAID ABOUT RAP. HE SAYS "MY BLOOD WAS STILL BOILING" (line 11), WHICH SHOWS THAT HE IS **NOT PACIFIED (= CALMÉ)**. WHEN MRS. HASS COMES TO TALK TO HIM HE IS **TOO ANGRY TO LOOK UP**. (TO BOIL = *BOUILLIR*)

10. Does the narrator regret what he said? Justify with the text.

Le narrateur regrette-t-il ce qu'il a dit ? Justifiez votre réponse par des citations du texte.

NO, HE DOESN'T.

lines 9 to 11: "I COULDN'T JUST LET MRS. HASS DISRESPECT MY ART AND PASSION LIKE THAT. WHAT IF I HAD TALKED THE SAME ABOUT ALBERT EINSTEIN, ISAAC NEWTON, OR STEPHEN HAWKING LIKE THAT? I KNEW THAT WOULD MAKE HER ERUPT INSIDE, TOO."

11. What does rap represent to the narrator? *Que représente le rap pour le narrateur ?*

FOR THE NARRATOR, RAP IS BOTH **A PASSION AND A MEANS OF EXPRESSION / A WAY TO EXPRESS HIS CREATIVITY** (line 9: "MY ART AND PASSION" + line 7: "IT WAS ABOUT THE ART AND DOING WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH MY LIFE"). IT MAY ALSO BE **A WAY OUT** OF A DIFFICULT PERSONAL SITUATION (lines 7-8: "HELPING MY MOM IN THE PROCESS").

A WAY OUT = *UN ÉCHAPATOIRE, UNE PORTE DE SORTIE*

12. Why does the narrator use a comparison with famous scientists?

Pourquoi le narrateur fait-il une comparaison avec des scientifiques célèbres ?

· to show that rap is similar to science (*pour montrer que le rap est similaire à la science*)

to show that criticizing someone's idols is offensive (*pour montrer que critiquer les idoles de quelqu'un peut offenser*)

· to show that rappers are as famous as scientists (*pour montrer que les rappeurs sont aussi célèbres que les scientifiques*)

Considering these comparisons, guess what Mrs Hass' job is.

En vous basant sur ces comparaisons, devinez le métier de Mme Hass.

Mrs. Hass is probably a **SCIENCE TEACHER**.

13. Focus on lines 12 and 13. Explain what Mrs Hass wants.

Concentrez-vous sur les lignes 12 et 13. Expliquez ce que Mme Hass veut.

MRS. HASS WANTS TO TALK TO TROY. SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO **CALM THINGS DOWN (= CALMER LES CHOSES)**, AS SHE SAYS "I'M NOT HAPPY WITH WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER, ARE YOU?".

14. Why do you think she acts this way?

SHE MIGHT ACT THAT WAY BECAUSE SHE REALIZED **THINGS WENT TOO FAR (= LES CHOSES SONT ALLÉES TROP LOIN)**, AND SHE WANTS TO **PACIFY TROY** SO THAT **THEIR RELATIONSHIP MAY IMPROVE (= S'AMÉLIORER)**. AFTER ALL, TROY IS STILL HER STUDENT AND HE WILL COME BACK TO CLASS. OR MAYBE SHE **REGRETS** WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT RAP AND **FEELS GUILTY FOR HURTING TROY'S FEELINGS**. PERHAPS SHE REALIZED SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED THAT WAY BECAUSE IT OFFENDED TROY, AND NOW SHE MIGHT WANT TO **APOLOGIZE (= S'EXCUSER)**. FINALLY, MAYBE SHE WANTS TROY TO REALIZE / ADMIT THAT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED TO HER THE WAY HE DID, THAT HE CAN'T TALK TO HIS ELDERS (= *SES AÎNÉS*) AND TEACHERS THAT WAY.

[SHE FEELS GUILTY FOR HURTING TROY'S FEELINGS = *ELLE SE SENT COUPABLE D'AVOIR BLESSÉ / CONTRARIÉ / OFFENSÉ TROY*]